



# The Florida House of Representatives

## Office of the Speaker

Richard Corcoran  
Speaker

March 20, 2017

Elliott J. Falcione  
Executive Director  
Bradenton Area Convention & Visitors Bureau  
1 Haben Blvd.  
Palmetto, FL 34221

*Documentation  
Response*

Dear Mr. Falcione:

Recent spending abuses and unwarranted secrecy in the tourism and economic development arena in Florida raise legitimate concerns among both taxpayers and elected officials. News media reports have only heightened that concern and reinforced my belief that it is time we take a close look at where development money is being spent, how it is being spent, and whether these expenditures are returning value to the taxpayers.

Consequently, the Florida House of Representatives is examining tax-supported economic development initiatives in Florida. We are requesting detailed information about the revenues and expenditures of your organization. You can help us better understand publicly funded economic development by providing the following information in an electronic format that allows for the sorting and filtering of the data:

**Revenues for FY 2015-16 - Please provide the amount of funds:**

- ✓ • Received through a tax collection or distribution
- ✓ • Received from other government sources and identify each source *from Fla Sports Foundation Grants*
- N/A • Received from the private sector
- ✓ • Received from fees or charges for goods and services *Co-op Advertising + joint activity*
- N/A • Received by each board member by name and include whether the payment is a requirement of board membership
- ✓ • Amount and source of all other revenues

**Expenditures for FY 2015-16** - Please provide detailed expense information on:

- ✓ • Advertising and promotional activities, itemized by expense and dollar amount
- N/A • Economic development projects including the funding provided to each private and public sector recipient of funds
- ✓ • Each event including the number of participants per event and the specifics of the expenditure, for example, food and beverage, facility rental, sporting event tickets, or other entertainment *Sponsorship events not hosted events*
- ✓ • Travel expenditures including the names of travelers, location and event attended and total travel costs for each trip itemized by type of expense, including in-kind donations
- N/A • Lobbyists representing the organization by name including the amount expended per individual lobbyist
- ✓ • All employees by name, position, title, and individual compensation specifying salary, bonuses, and any stipends or allowances
- N/A • Disbursements to each individual board member by name and nature of the disbursement
- ✓ • Amount and general nature of all other expenditures

Please also provide the most recent full reports of audited financial statements and available audit of internal controls for your organization. *2016 CAFR and Internal Audit report dated 5/23/2016*

We look forward to receiving this information by March 24, 2017. Your response may be submitted by email to Michelle Davila, at [Michelle.Davila@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Michelle.Davila@myfloridahouse.gov). If you choose not to provide this information, please be advised that pursuant to s. 11.143, F.S., you may be compelled by subpoena duces tecum to produce such information.

We appreciate your attention and cooperation with this request. Your input is important.

Sincerely,



Richard Corcoran  
Speaker of the House